



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN  
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairmen and members of the Regulatory Affairs Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

My name is Kenneth Dobson and I am the Director of Government Relations at the Wayne County Airport Authority. Our Airport Authority manages two of our state's busiest and most important aviation assets, Detroit Metropolitan (DTW) and Willow Run (YIP) Airports. I am here today with two of my colleagues: Brian Sadek, Vice President of Legal and Authority Affairs and Matt McGowan our Director of Landside Services.

Detroit Metropolitan Airport is one of the world's leading air transportation hubs. Last year our airport served more than 33 million travelers – more than three times the population of our State. DTW is Michigan's largest commercial service airport offering more than 1,100 flights per day to and from more than 140 non-stop destinations around the globe. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, our airport is among the world's most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America, and is a critical economic resource for our region - generating \$10.2 billion in economic impact (\$28 million every day), and supporting 86,000 jobs throughout the State. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive local tax dollars to support airport operations.

I'm sharing some of those statistics with you to emphasize the important role our airports play in facilitating transportation and commerce, not just here in our state, but around the world. Of course, our number one priority is always safety. Our team is committed to providing the safest environment possible for all of our passengers, stakeholders and employees. This includes travelers, people dropping off or picking up family members or friends, and customers utilizing our ground transportation facilities and services to reach their destinations.

Under State Law, Detroit Metropolitan Airport is operated by our independent Authority, and we are considered a local unit of government. The current bill # 4637 as drafted, prevents local units of government from regulating ground transportations companies such as, limousine carriers, taxicab carriers, limousine drivers, taxicab drivers, or transportation network companies.

We are requesting that the Airport Authority be exempted from this bill, so that we are able to continue to enforce our existing airport ordinances. These ordinances require all commercial ground transportation companies utilize our ground transportation centers and adhere to our ground transportation rules and regulations these regulations allow our team to safely and efficiently manage hundreds of commercial vehicle operations that take place at our facilities each and every day. The Wayne County Airport Authority has consulted with many traffic experts and designers, and we have invested resources in efficient ground transportation centers for our travelers. The use of ground transportation centers helps our team better manage the flow of commercial vehicle traffic and allows the terminal curbsides to be used for personal traffic. This design allows for improved traffic management at the airport, and limiting our ability to control and regulate our operations can have catastrophic consequences.

The same regulations are applicable for all commercial ground transportation companies operating at the airport. These processes and regulations allow our team to effectively manage traffic at our curbside, traffic flow on the site and to direct passengers using ground transportation services to the correct location. We want to ensure our customers have ground transportation choices and options, however we must also have the ability to ensure safe and equitable ground transportation operations at our airport. Our ability to manage and regulate the flow of traffic through our facilities creates a fair and competitive environment where all our customers benefit. Further, we support legislation that helps ensure the safety of passengers through driver background checks, fingerprinting, vehicle inspections and commercial insurance requirements.

If we cannot enact or enforce ordinances regulating ground transportation operations at our airport facilities, then the regulations issued under and by the power granted through those ordinances become ineffective. The impact this would lead to a situation where the Airport Authority would have no method by which to manage the thousands of vehicles that enter our facility. The result would be a chaotic, unsafe operating environment with traffic backups impacting all customers traveling to and from the airport.

Further, a large revenue stream will be lost, if we are not exempted from the bill. As mentioned earlier, our airports are self-funded, and our revenue is raised primarily through airline rates and charges, and parking, concession, car rental, and ground transportation fees. All revenues generated by the airport are used for airport improvements and operations. We do not receive state tax dollars to support airport operations, and we rely upon the revenue we generate to help our airport remain competitive and ensure our partners continue to provide a high-level of service and value for our travelers.. This bill would also have an impact on all Michiganders because our team has been successful at attracting new routes and air carrier service, through keeping airline costs low and maximizing important non-airline revenue sources, such as those derived from safe and efficient ground transportation operations. Additionally, most flights in the state connect through our airport before heading to their final destination, so by impacting our operations you are impacting citizens across the state. This isn't just a

SE Michigan issue - it affects travelers throughout the state, who originate at smaller airports which connect to our important and efficient air transportation gateway at Detroit Metro Airport.

In closing, I would like to mention again that Detroit Metropolitan Airport provides \$10.2 billion in economic impact to the State of Michigan (\$28 million/day), and supports 86,000 jobs. It is essential to the economy of our region, that our largest international gateway airport have the ability to regulate the important ground transportation services provided at our facilities, and provide our users with a safe and efficient travel experience.

Thank you.

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